SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

This call is not intended for the press or for reporting purposes.

Lab/IP Calls

- Lab/IP Zoom Webinars will occur every other week.

- The next Webinar is scheduled at 10AM (CT) on Thursday February 18th.

- Webinar invitations will continue to be sent through the HAI/OLC Listserv.

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MMWR: Vaccine Uptake in Skilled Nursing Facilities *national*

- A new MMWR describes vaccination uptake among residents and in skilled nursing facilities.

- Of 11,460 facilities with at least one vaccination clinic conducted during the first month of the CDC Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program, approximately 77.8% of residents and 37.5% of staff members received an initial vaccine.

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Community Masking: Clarification on double masking

CDC recommends individuals in the community wear cloth masks with a *double layer of cloth*. As opposed to wearing 2 masks at one time.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html

*Interesting article evaluating different cloth mask effectiveness based on cloth type/modifications:
https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/fullarticle/2774266

DO choose masks that

Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric

Completely cover your nose and mouth

Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps

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Mask Definitions

Cloth mask: Textile (cloth) covers that are intended for source control. **They are not personal protective equipment (PPE) and it is uncertain whether cloth face coverings protect the wearer.** Guidance on design, use, and maintenance of cloth masks is available.

Facemask: Facemasks are PPE and are often referred to as surgical masks or procedure masks. Use facemasks according to product labeling and local, state, and federal requirements. FDA-cleared surgical masks are designed to protect against splashes and sprays and are prioritized for use when such exposures are anticipated, including surgical procedures. Facemasks that are not regulated by FDA, such as some procedure masks, which are typically used for isolation purposes, may not provide protection against splashes and sprays.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html
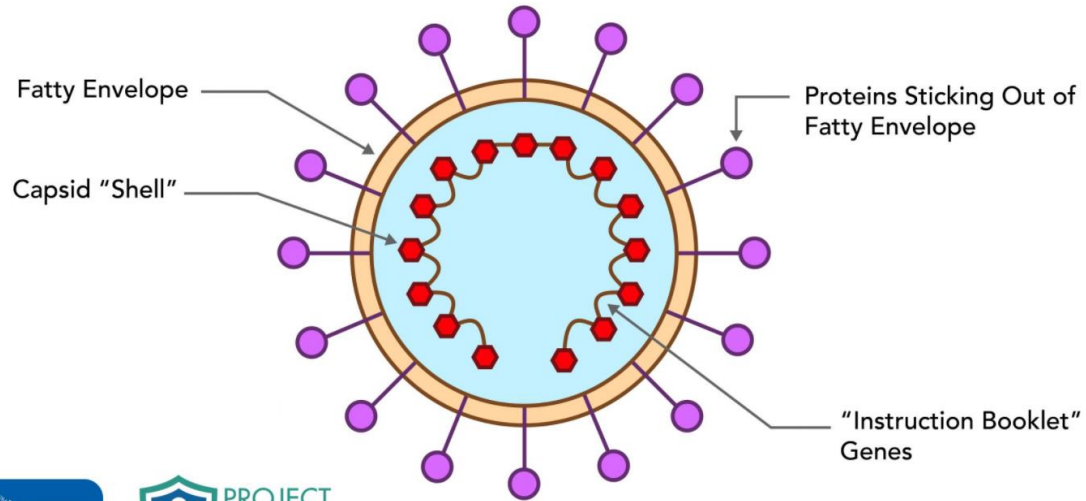
Continue all COVID-19 infection prevention measures during vaccination phases!

- Masking/wearing PPE at work
- Frequent hand washing
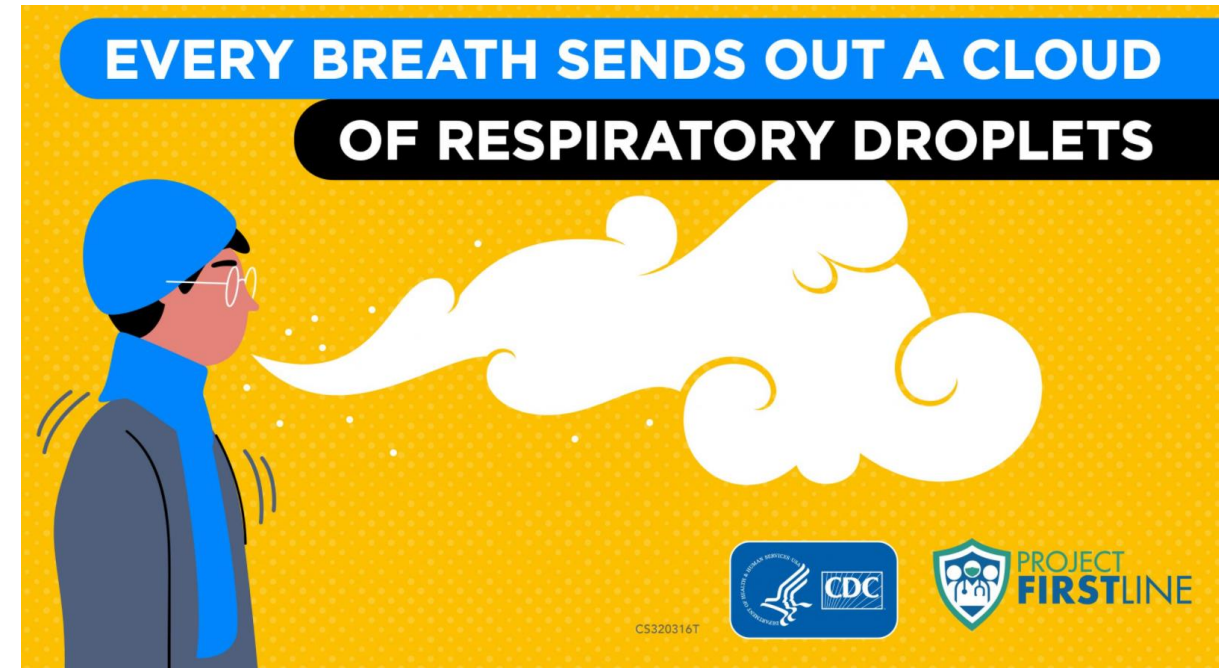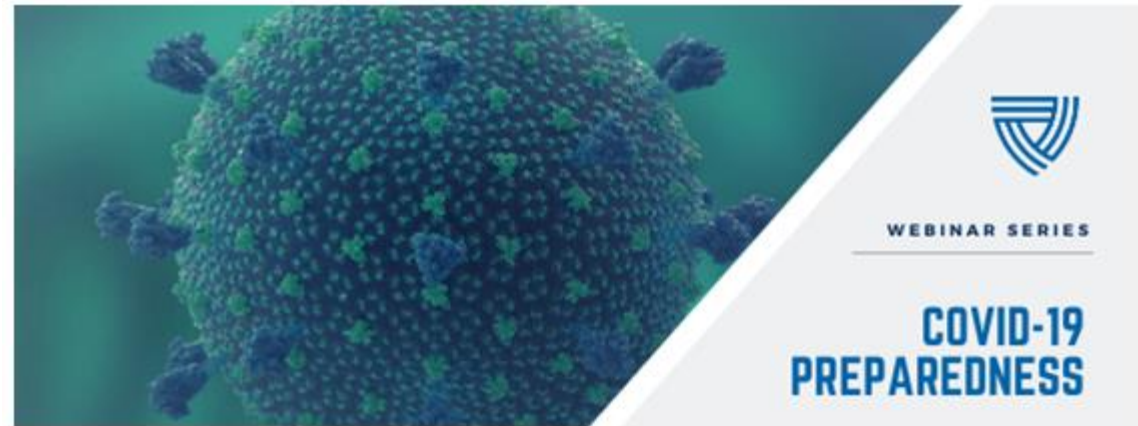- Social distancing

- FAQ about COVID-19 Vaccination:

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/toolkits/long-term-care/faqs.html

CDC Project Firstline

SARS-CoV-2: Mutations and Variants and Strains (Oh My!)

Friday, February 12, 2021 | Noon CT / 1:00 PM ET

Speakers:

- **James V. Lawler, MD, MPH, FIDSA**, Executive Director of Clinical and Biodefense Research, Global Center for Health Security

- **Anne Piantadosi, MD, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Emory University Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine & practicing Infectious Disease physician in the Department of Medicine, Infectious Disease Division

Moderator:

- Radu Postelnicu, MD, Critical Care Medicine, NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue

Learning Objectives:

- Define mutation and variant as they relate to SARS-CoV-2

   Discuss the importance of the current variants and mutations including future predictions surrounding the epidemiology of spread and modeling

   Describe what is known about SARS-CoV-2 variants' susceptibility to vaccines and therapeutic antibodies

[REGISTER HERE](#)

<u>Infection Control Assessment & Response (ICAR)</u>

Tool that facilities can use in order to assess and improve their preparedness for responding to COVID-19 and help develop a comprehensive plan.
Items assessed in the ICAR support the key strategies of:

• Keeping COVID-19 out of the facility
• Identifying infections as early as possible
• Preventing spread of COVID-19 in the facility
• Assessing and optimizing personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies
• Identifying and managing severe illness in residents with COVID-1
• Can be performed via tele-visit or in-person

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/assessment-tool-for-nursing-homes.html
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/hcp/assessment-tool-nursing-homes.pdf

Infection Control Assessment & Response (ICAR)

• Non-Regulatory (scheduled at a time that is convenient for your facility)
• Will focus on Telephone ICAR initially, with the possibility of In-person in the future
• Preference to Nursing Facilities (May open to ALF's depending on capacity)
•   Work with Contracted infection prevention experts for the ICAR

Steps of ICAR

1. Contact the facility to schedule the ICAR
2. Conduct the ICAR
3. Provide completed ICAR and Feedback form to the facility
4. Provide post ICAR Follow-up

How to sign up

1. Facility can Email - DOHInfectionControl@state.sd.us or
2. Contact Leah Bomesberger: leah.bomesberger@state.sd.us

NHSN Reporting of Antigen Testing Results

Nursing Homes would have to do one of the following to be CARES Act compliant.

- Continue to use NHSN for laboratory testing Point of Care result reporting. – This is CDC and CMS's preferred route of reporting.
    - NHSN submits this data to the SD DOH

- For LTCF's that have a way of reporting Point of Care testing results, **AND** all other CARES Act required fields to the SD DOH via a HL7 message (all required data elements are on page 2-5 of the following page - https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/covid-19-laboratory-data-reporting-guidance.pdf) they could work with their facilities IT department to ensure all elements are reported and received properly.

The SD DOH disease reporting webpage – Next Slide…

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Updates to SD DOH COVID-19 Reporting:

- SD DOH Disease Reporting webpage has been updated to reflect all required documentation for federal CMS CARES Act compliance (e.g., pregnancy question)
  - Sd.gov/diseasereport *(Bear with us: DOH is working on getting this link up on the DOH disease reporting main site).*

- The additional questions will not be marked with a red *Asterix that denotes a *required* field for form submission. However, since SD DOH reports this information to CMS/CDC, any facility that is performing COVID-19 antigen testing needs to fill this out to help remain CARES Act compliant.

South Dakota Department of Health

South Dakota Confidential Disease Report

SDCL 34-22-12 and ARSD 44:20   Reportable Disease List

Phone: 800-592-1861 or 605-773-3737 | Fax: 605-773-5509

Laboratory Guidance

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SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Testing: Abbott BinaxNOW

- SDDOH continues to stock Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen test cards.

- For questions about BinaxNOW availability, please contact the following:
  - K-12 Schools: Joe.Moran@state.sd.us
  - Childcare Providers: Laura.Nordbye@state.sd.us
  - Long-term Care: Denise.Broadbent@state.sd.us
  - Healthcare: Laurie.Gregg@state.sd.us
  - Higher Education: Laurie.Gregg@state.sd.us

- SDDOH continues to accept requests for BinaxNOW antigen cards
  - Joan.Adam@state.sd.us
  - Tim.Southern@state.sd.us

- Inquiries for BinaxNOW resources can also be directed to:
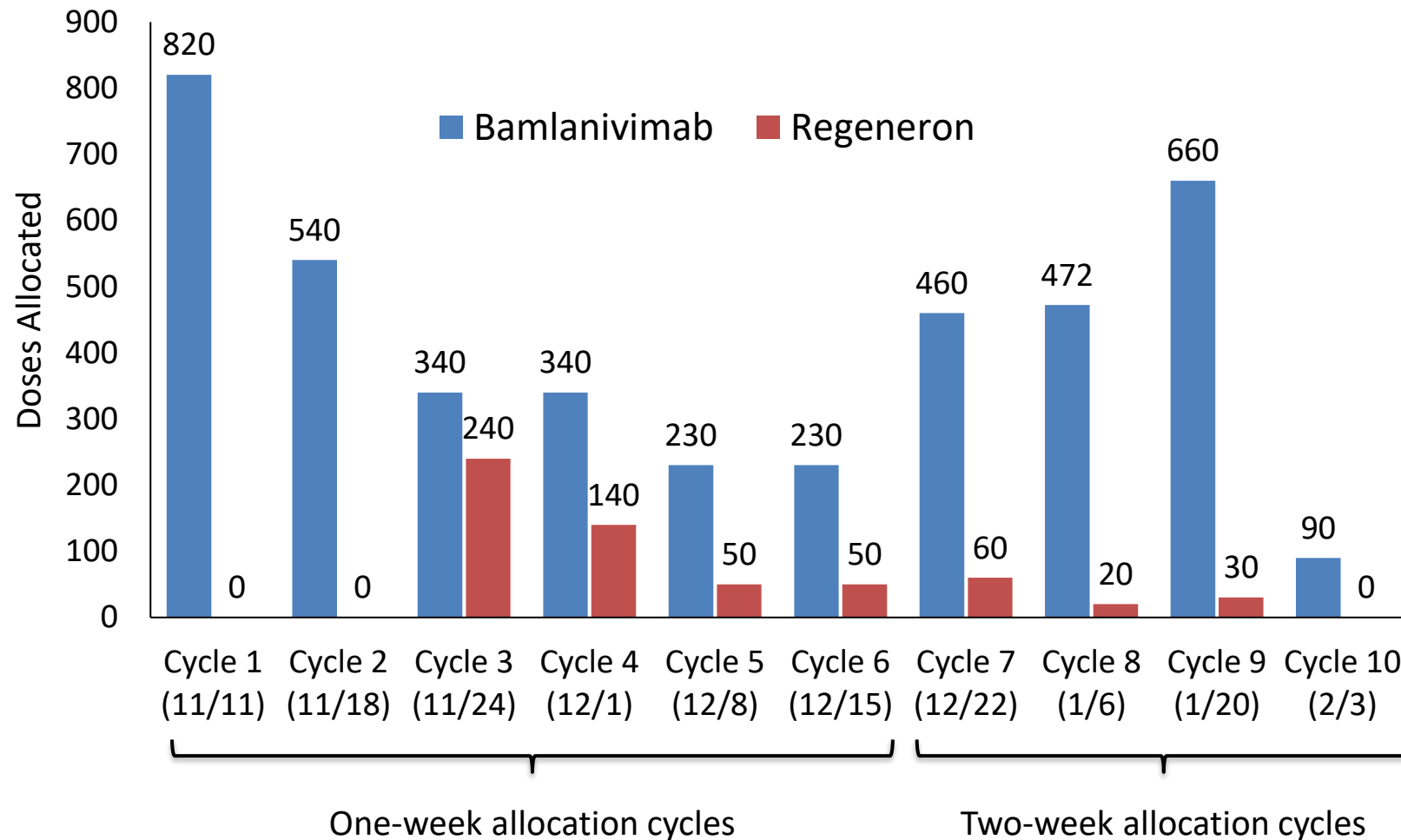 - Dorothy.Ahten@abbott.com

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SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Testing: Abbott BinaxNOW

- Some BinaxNOW tests kits may be outdating soon.

- SDDOH asks that test kits with the earliest expiration dates be used first followed by kits with longer expiration dates.

- Kits that have expired can be returned to the SDDOH and will be replaced with a new kit.

- Unopened kits that are not being used can be returned to the SDDOH for redistribution.

- SDDOH can also help you place your unopened kits in other approved locations in your community.

- Under some circumstances, expired kits can still be used. If you have an expired kit and want to continue to use that kit, please reach out to the SDDOH for further instructions.
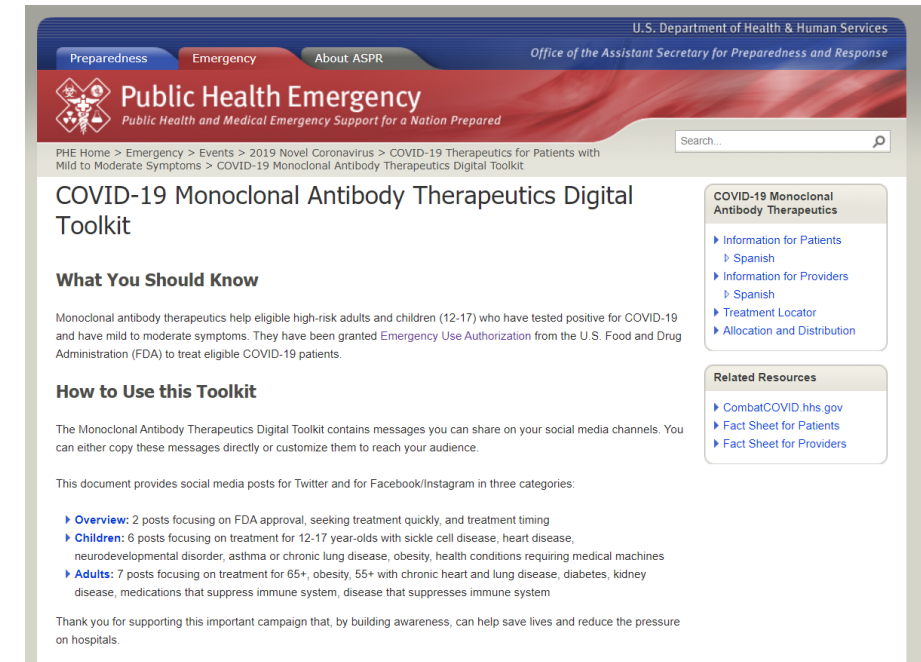
Monoclonal Antibody Therapies for COVID-19

➤ 3,640 doses of monoclonal antibody therapy have been allocated to South Dakota

➤ 2,805 patients have been treated with mAb therapy in South Dakota

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Monoclonal Antibody Therapies for COVID-19

Health and Human Services recently released a [digital toolkit](#) which contains social media posts with graphics on fifteen topic areas that can be used on social media platforms. Topic areas include:

- **Overview:** 2 posts focusing seeking treatment quickly and treatment timing

- **Children:** 6 posts focusing on treatment for 12-17 year-olds with sickle cell disease, heart disease, neurodevelopmental disorder, asthma or chronic lung disease, obesity, and health conditions requiring medical machines

- **Adults:** 7 posts focusing on treatment for 65+, obesity, 55+ with chronic heart and lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease, patients who take medications that suppress immune system, and patients with diseases that suppresses immune system

Questions about monoclonal antibody therapies can be directed to:
Bob.Coolidge@state.sd.us

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Frequently Asked Questions – January 2021

Q: Will diagnostic tests used in South Dakota, including the more popular antigen tests, detect SARS-CoV-2 variants such as the variants from the United Kingdom and South Africa?
A: Current data and information from test manufacturers indicate that diagnostic tests used in South Dakota will detect infections caused by the known variants.

Q: Does the state public health laboratory test for SARS-CoV-2 variants?
A: Yes. The SDPHL performs genome sequencing and also provides specimens to CDC for additional virus genome sequencing. SDPHL is also coordinating a statewide consortium of laboratories to perform additional surveillance sequencing for SARS-CoV-2 variants.

Q: Can antigen tests like the BinaxNOW be used to end quarantine early for asymptomatic individuals in quarantine?
A: CDC has indicated that antigen tests such as the BinaxNOW may be used to end quarantine for asymptomatic individuals based on the recommended timeline.

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